(C O P Y)

November 6, 1934.

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Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The following summarizes the insect situation in the region as reported by the several forests.

Drought throughout the Region during the past year has allowed the building up of the insect population. This is particularly true in the pine type where rainfall has been abnormally low during the year. In spite of this situation insect conditions on the following forests are reported as normal: Apache, Coconino, Coronado, Crook, Gila, Lincoln, Santa Fe, Sitgreaves and Tonto.

The Carson reports the tent caterpillar infestations in the aspen stands which have been referred to for the past several years as gradually subsiding, and it is believed that the infestations will become endemic within the next couple of years. The Carson also reports the spruce budworm infestation as about the same as it has been for the past number of years. No serious damage is resulting. The loss from bark beetles continues normal.

Losses are reported by the Cibola Forest in sapling and pole stands of pine just outside the forest boundaries south of Manzano Village. This infestation was caused by a spread of Ips from undisposed slash on private lands. Small centers of infestation are also showing up in the pinon stands east of the Sandia Mountains. The Cibola also reports a rather heavy infestation of spruce budworm in Douglas and white fir near the head of Red Canyon. The Ips infestation in pine and pinon, no doubt, has been aggravated by the extremely dry conditions throughout the year.

The Prescott Forest reports that there has been a noticeable increase in insect infestations throughout the year, and that this is not confined to any particular portion of the Forest, but is fairly widespread throughout the pinon type. In the vicinity of Camp Wood, especially around the sawmill, Ips have done considerable damage and seem to be on the increase. In the area south and west of Prescott, not only Ips but Dendroctonus have been working in all the pine stands and clumps of dead trees are visible from any point of observation over the area. This is also true of the Lynx Creek area, and also around Crown King, both in the Horsethief area and from Towers Mountain north along Tuscumbia Ridge. While not to the same extent, insect infestation is also noticeable on Mingus Mt. During the year insect infestations within the blight area were treated, but this in the Supervisor's opinion has not covered sufficient area. The Supervisor recommends control to the extent of at least four crews to take care of the situation - one in the Camp Wood area, two around Prescott and one at Crown King. The Prescott area is thought to be the most urgent, and it is believed that even one crew working out of Prescott could accomplish a great deal during the winter.

The insects doing the damage are Ips and Dendroctonus. Since the Prescott has had considerable experience with these insects and their methods of treatment, it is not thought necessary to detail an entomologist. If funds can be obtained in connection with the Emergency Program, it will be well to at least work a crew from Prescott during the coming winter.

On the Kaibab Forest some losses were sustained on the Saginaw and Manistee sale area near the Grand Canyon. This area was examined on June 30 by Dr. Blackman, Dr. Miller and Assistant Regional Forester Randles, and it was the opinion of Drs. Blackman and Miller that the infestation was not serious and did not warrant special treatment. During the winter of 1933-34, a small crew was employed from Nira funds and at that time all infested trees on the Saginaw sale were felled and the brush was burned. This crew covered scattered infestations on about 1000 acres.

In the cultural work done last year the peeling of poles cut in thinning operations was discontinued on Sept. 15. Last season was extremely warm and dry. The Coconino, Gila and Sitgreaves Forests report some loss in the reserved stands from Ips this spring, which it is believed spread from the unpeeled poles into adjacent sapling and pole stands. Nowhere is this serious. To prevent a re-currence of this, however, peeling was continued this fall until stand improvement work was discontinued.

To summarize the situation in the region, only the Prescott needs control measures. Here, while the infestation is on the increase, it is not considered alarming, and it is believed that it can be managed in connection with some of the Emergency Program Work.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, Regional Forester,

By: Quincy Randles, Acting